

20. (Newly Added) A terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data comprising:

a data processing system and

a memory,

wherein the data processing system stores in the memory a plurality of user profiles,

wherein each user profile comprises user profile data relating to characteristics of a user of the terminal,

wherein the data processing system includes a virtual machine and an object oriented application interface layer,

wherein the application interface layer includes a plurality of class libraries having a user profile class library adapted to define the characteristics of the user profile data,

wherein the user profile class library includes a generic class library associated with a definition of generic characteristics of the user profile data and a sub-class library associated with definitions of characteristics associated with a specific user profile.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 15. This claim has been rewritten into independent form as claim 20.

Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority. The Applicant notes that a certified copy of the European Patent Application 98400541.3 filed on March 6, 1998, should be forwarded by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the PTO in due course, as this application is a national phase application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 17 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Claims 1-17 were amended to clarify the present invention. Claim 20 has been newly added in this reply.

II. Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to because they allegedly fail to clearly show the details of the Applicant's invention. A set of clean drawings has been obtained and enclosed with this reply. Withdrawal of this objection is thus requested.

III. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 12 has been amended to remove the term "may." Thus, this rejection is now moot.

With respect to claim 1, this claim was rejected because the term “memory” lacked proper antecedent basis. The preamble of claim 1 recites, “[a] terminal...including a data processing system and *a memory*...” Therefore, “the” memory in the claim body properly refers to “a” memory as recited in the preamble. Because the term “the memory” does have proper antecedent basis, this rejection is improper. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,163,316 (“Killian”). Claim 1 has been amended in this reply. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Present Invention

As recited in amended claim 1, the present invention relates to a terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data. The terminal includes a data processing system and a memory. Further, the data processing system stores a plurality of user profiles in the memory. Each user profile includes user profile data, which relates to characteristics or preferences of a user of the terminal. As amended, each user profile additionally is defined in relation to an external device.

For example, in one or more embodiments of the present invention, a user profile is defined with respect to a plurality of external devices, *e.g.*, “a television viewer, a VHS recorder, a person directly using the decoder to access to the internet, a person using the decoder to route information to a PC, *etc.*” (p. 13, ll. 5-9). Figure 5 of the instant

specification shows an example of a set of typical user profiles. In other words, a “user profile” generally relates to a person and an external device connected to a terminal. Advantageously, the present invention allows a terminal to route data between many external devices in parallel.

Killian

On the other hand, Killian relates to an electronic programming system, where a set of profiles are generated and stored based on viewership, *i.e.*, based on a particular type of television program. Killian states, “[p]rofile module 74 receives preference information from one or more viewers associated with receiver 10, such as multiple viewers within a family that owns JAVA-enabled television system 2, constructs, builds, or otherwise generates corresponding viewer profiles for storage in profile database 80” (col. 9, ll. 10-15).

The profile module of Killian includes a preference template. Killian explains specifically what a preference template is when stating, “preference template 82 stored in profile database 80 may include without limitation: a genre template that lists possible program genres...a key word template 82 that lists keywords that may describe the program in some manner...” (col. 9, ll. 43-67). In other words, the profile module of Killian, and, specifically, the preference template relates to television programming *e.g.*, genres, key words, *etc.*

The invention as recited in amended claim 1 requires “each user profile is defined in relation to connection of an external device.” Therefore, the user profile of the present

invention relates not only to the specific user preferences, but also relates to the particular external device being operated by that user.

For example, in one or more embodiments of the present invention, the user profile has user profile data. The user profile data assigns a priority value which, for example, gives a recorder (a user associated with a VHS) a higher priority than a viewer (a user associated with a television). In this manner, the present invention can prevent a change channel signal from a viewer being received over the channel chosen by a recorder, when signals are received at the same time. Killian is completely silent to user profile data relating to anything other than television programming and certainly not to external devices, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Killian fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claim 1 as amended. Thus, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Killian. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,005,084 ("Skinner"). Claim 17 has been amended in this reply. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention as recited in claim 17 relates to a method of operation of a terminal for processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data. The terminal includes a data processing system and a memory. Further, the data processing system stores a plurality of user profiles in the memory. Each user profile includes user profile data,

which relates to characteristics or preferences of a user of the terminal. Additionally, each user profile is defined in relation to a connection of an external device.

Skinner

Skinner also fails to disclose the present invention as recited in claim 17. Skinner discloses personalization of a remote control unit. First, Skinner is completely silent to processing digital audio-visual or multimedia data, *i.e.*, Skinner deals primarily with the transmission of infrared signals of a remote control to a television based on a user identification. Further, Skinner does not disclose a user profile that is defined in relation to connection of an external device as in the present invention. The preference ring of Skinner only relates to television channels that are preferred by a particular viewer and does *not* additionally relate to external devices (or, *e.g.*, their mode of operation).

Because Skinner fails to show or suggest the elements of claim 17, claim 17 is patentable over Skinner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Killian and Reed

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Killian in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,325 ("Reed"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Killian fails to teach all of the elements of claim 1 as amended. Reed fails to provide that which Killian lacks. Reed generally relates to an automated

communications system that operates to transfer data and metadata from a provider computer to a consumer computer through a network. Reed does not teach all of the elements of the present invention as recited in claim 1. Particularly, Reed does not teach that the user profile is defined in relation to connection of an external device as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Killian and Reed, whether considered separately or in combination. Claim 6, being dependent, is likewise patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Killian and AAPA

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Killian in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Killian fails to teach all of the elements of claim 1 as amended. The AAPA fails to provide that which Killian lacks. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Killian and the AAPA, whether considered separately or in combination. Claim 13, being dependent, is likewise patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

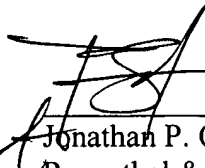
VI. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at

the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits,
to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 11345.026001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/12/04

 #45,079
Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
Rosenthal & Osha L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

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